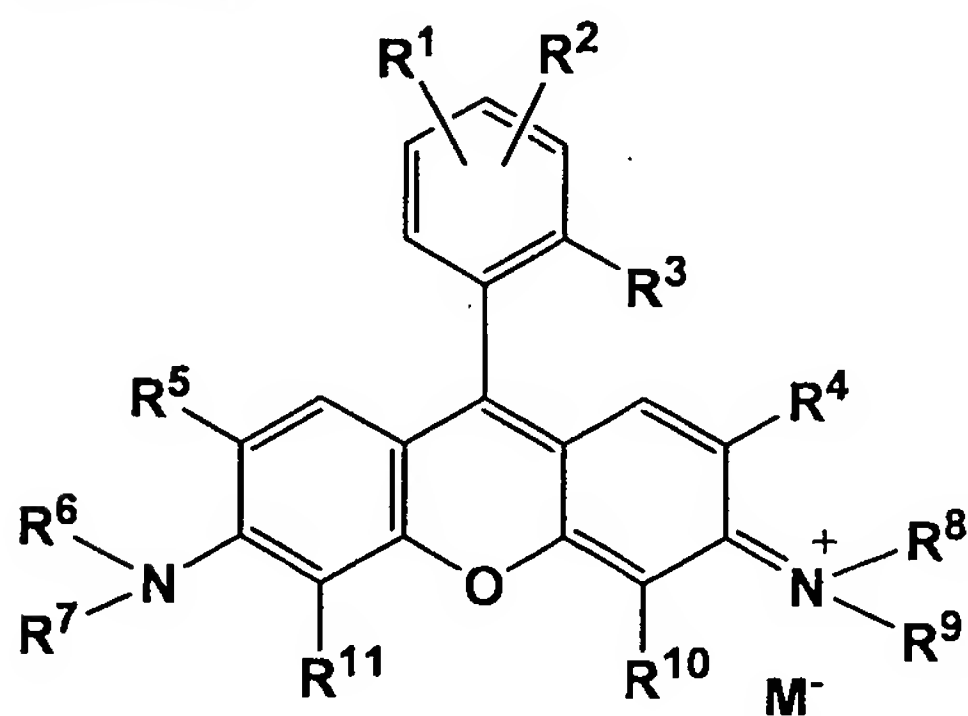


Abstract

A fluorescent probe which is represented by the following formula (wherein R^1 and R^2 represent hydrogen atom, or a substituent for trapping proton, a metal ion, or an active oxygen species; R^3 represents a monovalent substituent other than hydrogen atom, carboxy group, or sulfo group; R^4 and R^5 represent hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or an alkyl group; R^6 to R^9 represent an alkyl group; R^{10} and R^{11} represent hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or an alkyl group; M^- represents a counter ion; and the combination of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 (1) imparts a substantially high electron density to the benzene ring to which they bond so that the compound can be substantially non-fluorescent before trapping proton, a metal ion, or an active oxygen species, and (2) substantially reduces electron density of the benzene ring to which they bond so that the compound after trapping proton, a metal ion, or an active oxygen species can be highly fluorescent after the trapping.

[Formula 1]



(I)